



UNIVERSITY *of* NICOSIA

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The Sustainable Development of the Troodos Mountainous Region in Cyprus

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MoChWo
MOUNTAINS IN THE CHANGING WORLD

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Structure of the Presentation

- ▼ Basic facts about Cyprus
- ▼ Basic facts about Troodos
- ▼ Research and Policy Initiatives on Sustainable Development
- ▼ Action Plan for Pitsilia Region Strategic Goals
- ▼ Regional Tourism Strategy
- ▼ Conclusions



**ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΔΑΣΙΚΟ ΠΑΡΚΟ
ΤΡΟΟΔΟΥΣ
TROODOS
NATIONAL FOREST PARK**







Basic Facts About Cyprus

- ▼ The Republic of Cyprus is a member of the European Union an independent country since 1960 but also divided in two by the Turkish invasion and occupation in the Summer of 1974
- ▼ 37 % of the total are is occupied by Turkey and 200.000 people were made refugees.
- ▼ Traditionally the population (880,000) is divided between 82% Greek Cypriots and 18% Turkish Cypriots.
- ▼ In addition it is estimated that in the occupied part of Cyprus there are about 150.000 settlers from Turkey and 100.000 students mostly from Turkey and other Muslim countries.
- ▼ is at a crossroad faced with a midlife crisis.
- ▼ It's social and Economic model is out of date in the 21st Century. A paradigm Shift is urgently needed.



Basic Facts About Cyprus

Critical Problems

- ▼ **Macroeconomic issues:** Coming out of a very severe crisis and looking into a new slowdown of the global economy, unstable external environment, substantial public debt ($> 100\%$ of GDP), weak banking system.
- ▼ **Microeconomic issues:** Competitiveness, productivity, need to restructure the public sector and make the private sector more focussed and efficient.
- ▼ **Sustainable development:** Also need to invest more on the sustainable development of the economy and away from the financial services, construction and tourism.



Basic Facts about Troodos I

- ▼ The highest Olympus stands a few meters shy of 2000m. All villages in the area except three are not higher than 1000m.
- ▼ Troodos is very famous among geologists about its geological structure as it emerged from the sea very much like Aphrodite, the Godees of Love. www.troodos-geo.org
- ▼ The Mountain Resorts Region, in the center of the island, includes around 70 villages in the sub - regions of Troodos, Solia, Marathasa, Pitsilia and Limassol Vine-growing Villages.
- ▼ Common denominator for the sustainable development of tourism in the region is the protection and upgrading of:
 - ▼ a) The unique natural environment of high ecological value and
 - ▼ b) The rich history and tradition of the mountain villages



Basic Facts about Troodos II

Main Activities

- ▼ Agriculture (table and wine grapes, olives and olive oil, almonds, walnuts, apples, apricots, pears and other fruit vegetables).
- ▼ Processing of agricultural and dairy products (wine, oinos, zivania, koumandaria, olive oil, cheese, halloumi, anari, chiromeri, lountza, loucanica, posirti, sweets, marmalade etc).
- ▼ Hospitality Industry (hotels, agrotourism, restaurants, taverns, cafes etc.)
- ▼ Work outside the area in the major cities (Lefkosia & Limassol)



Basic Facts about Troodos III

Demographic Data

- ▼ Current Population less than 20.000.
- ▼ Mostly older people, pensioners, widows and widowers.
- ▼ Few young people, families and children.
- ▼ The majority of people with limited primary level education working in agriculture, construction and other manual jobs.
- ▼ Very few college educated or professional people.
- ▼ The villages function as weekend getaways for tourists and part time farmers.

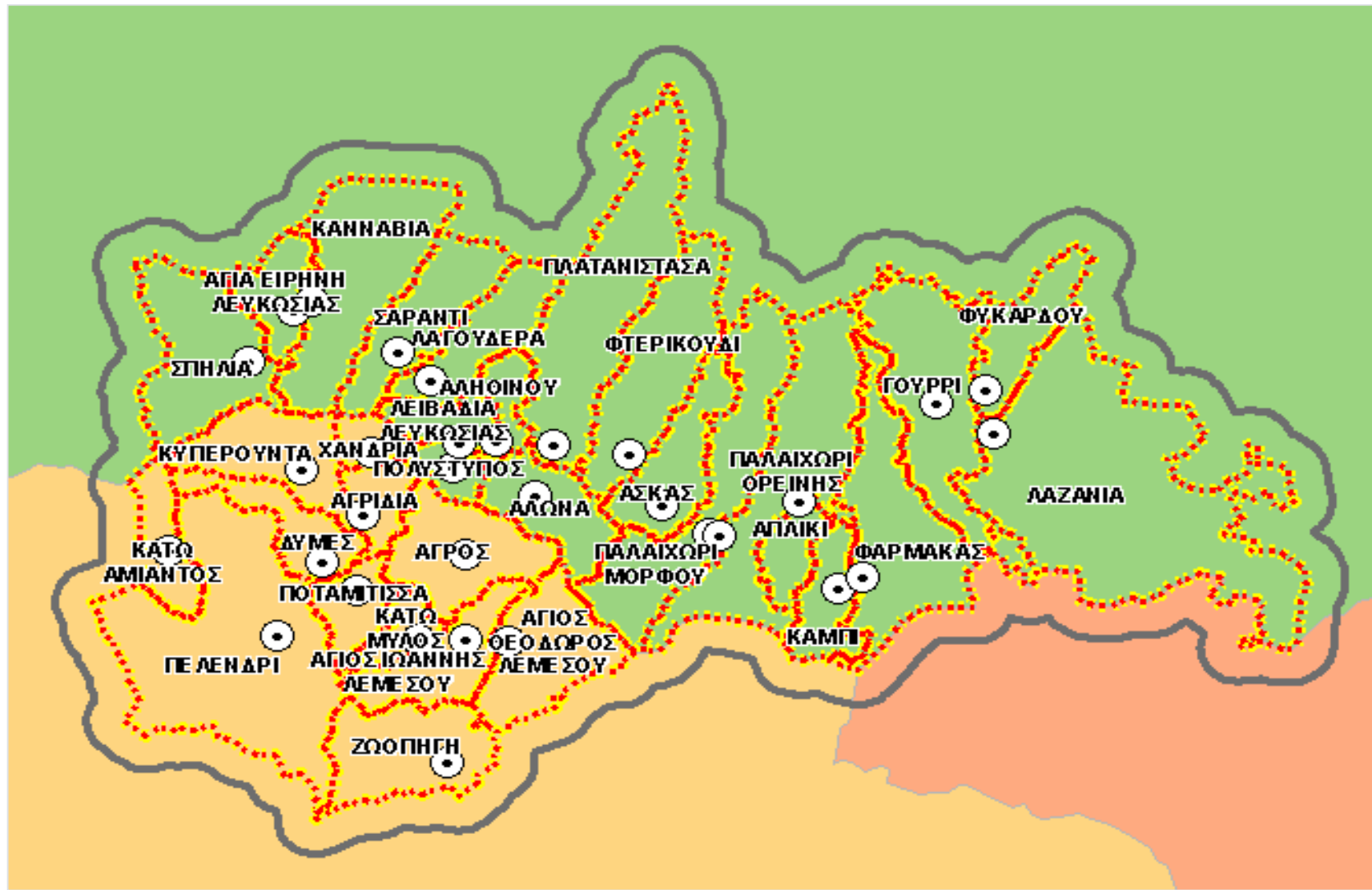


The Area : 343km²



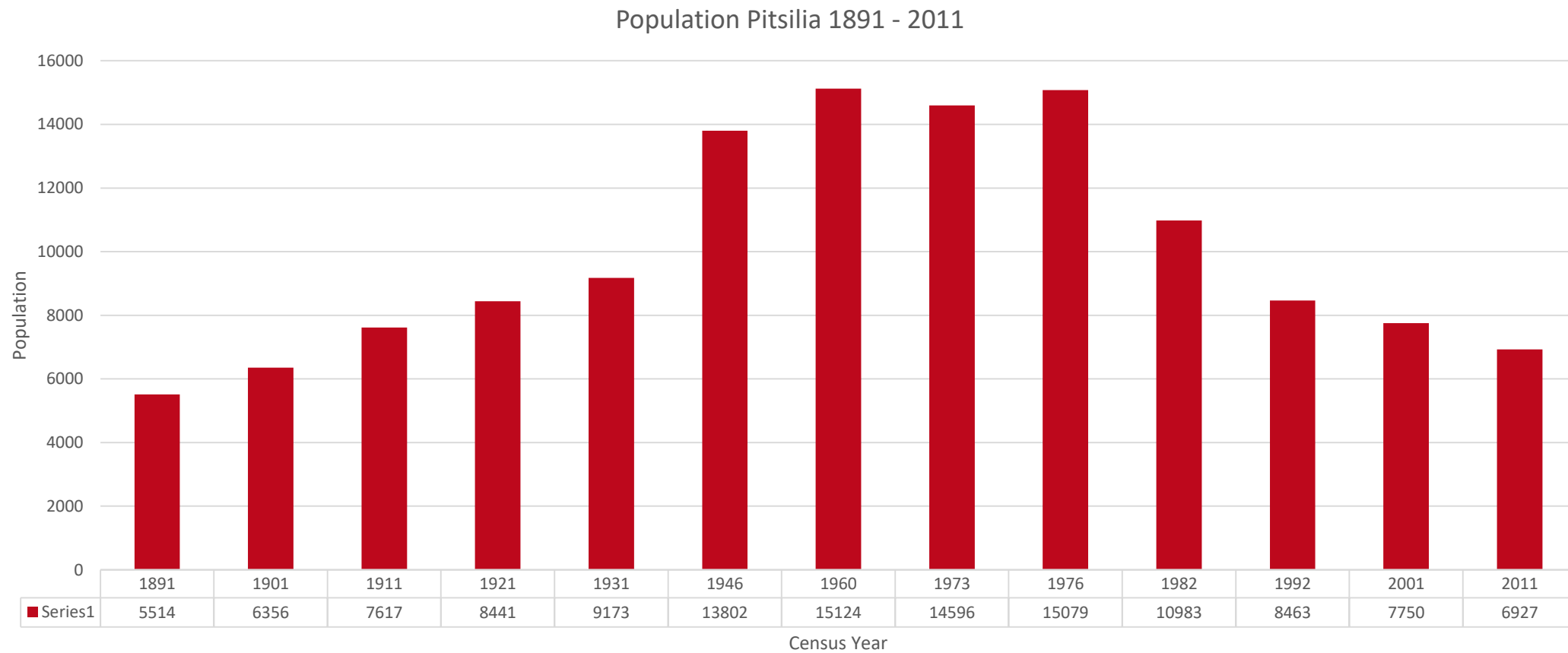


The Area : 343km²



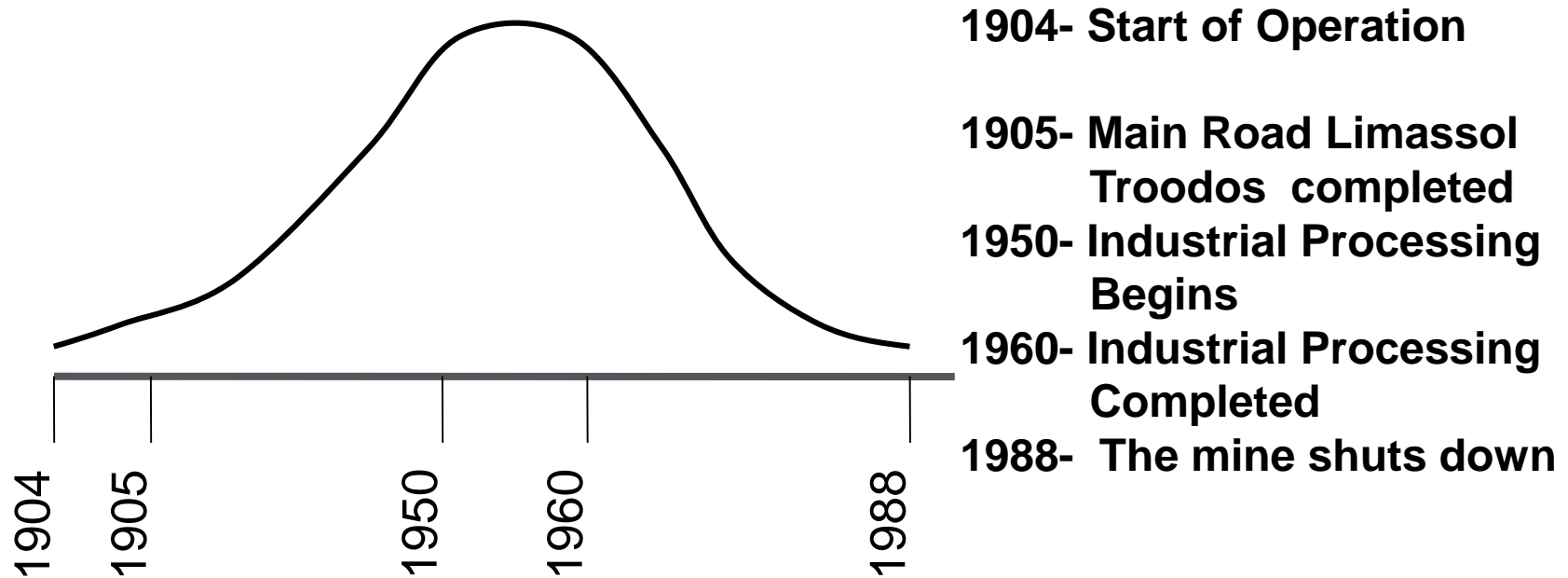


Demographics 1891-2001





External Factors Amiandos / Asbestos Mine





Research and Policy Initiatives on Sustainable Development

- ▼ Cyprus Research Foundation research projects 2003 – 2008 on the Pitsilia Region (University of Nicosia)
- ▼ Policy Study on the Marathasa Region 2006 – 2010
- ▼ Rural Development of the Solea Region of Cyprus. Doctoral Thesis. Dr Charalambos Kordatos 2011
- ▼ Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development Study 2014 – 2017. Endorsed by the Government.
- ▼ New study under the Office of the Commissioner for Mountainous Areas 2008 – 2019 work in progress.
- ▼ A lot of work and effort and little to show for.



Action Plan for Pitsilia Region Strategic Goals

- ▼ To create a model of sustainable development that could be a model of other mountainous areas
- ▼ To stop and reverse the migration away from the area
- ▼ To enable individuals and families to return to live and work in the area
- ▼ The creation of the necessary conditions for sustainable development.
- ▼ The adoption of a balanced and well thought out policy for the Island as a whole.
- ▼ The area of Pitsilia could serve as the model.

Economic & Social Dimensions of Sustainable Development

- ▼ Fiscal, Financial and Economic Policy
- ▼ Upgrading of Social Services (Health, Education& Social Services)
- ▼ Establishment of a “Body/Structure” for the Promotion of Business Opportunities
- ▼ Infrastructure



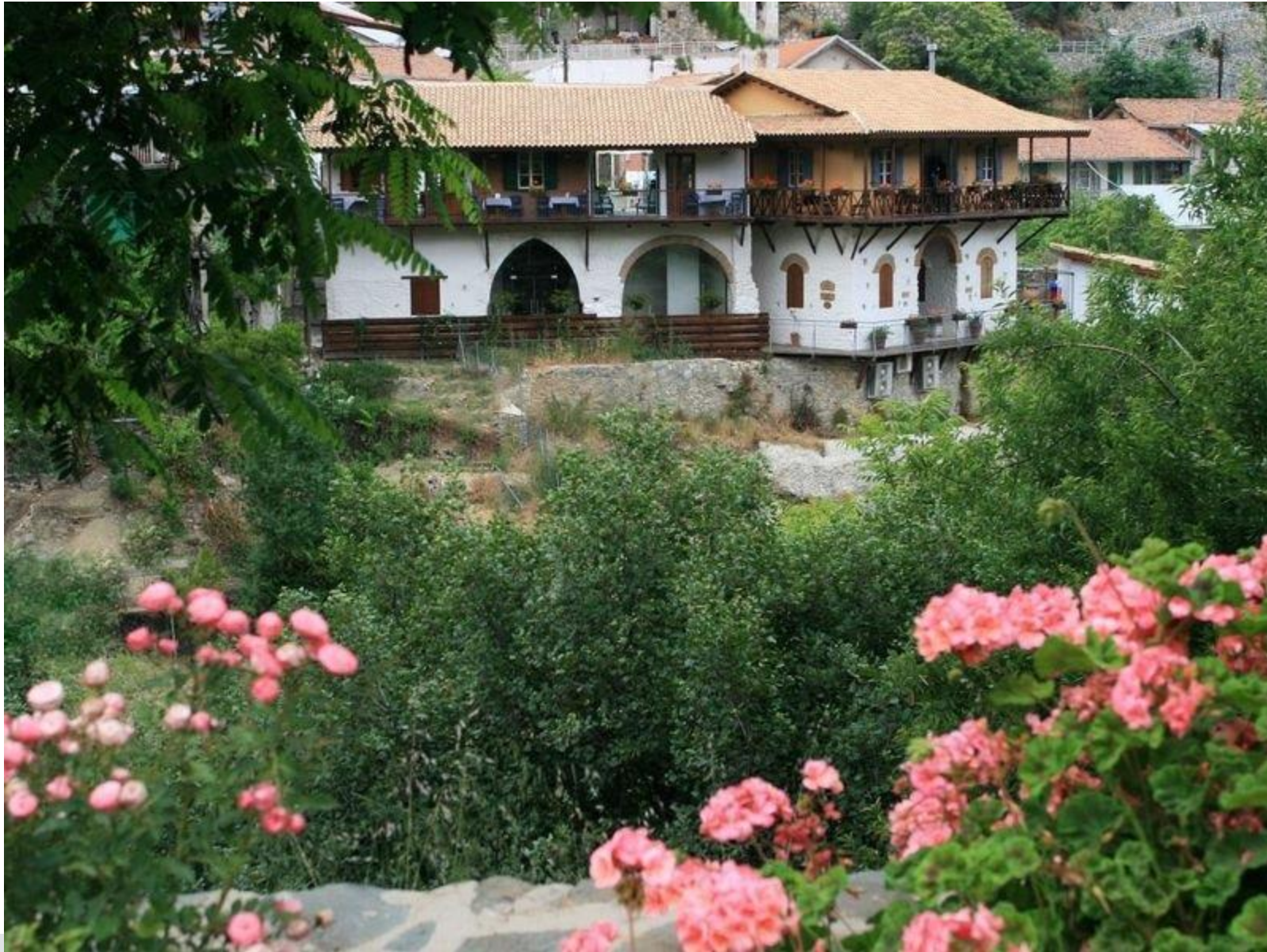
Political and Administrative Change

- ▼ Reconstruction Policies
- ▼ Administrative Changes & Restructuring
- ▼ Electronic Governance / Digital Services
- ▼ Training Opportunities for Local Stakeholders



Culture & Environment

- ▼ Management of Natural Resources and Energy
- ▼ Sustainable Agriculture & Traditional Local Products
- ▼ Nurturing of environmental culture
- ▼ Safeguard and Promotion of Traditional Local Culture and new Culture Activities



Regional Tourism Strategy

Development of a marketing strategy that projects and promotes Troodos as an authentic and unique destination

- ▼ Encompass environmental and cultural values
- ▼ Promote sustainable tourism through sustainable development
- ▼ Promote the unique traditional culture and lifestyle.
- ▼ Contribute to the local economy, business and employment.
- ▼ Contribute to the upgrade, survival and viability of the surrounding communities.



Conclusions

- ▼ The Troodos Region is a unique area that has a lot to offer to the discerning visitor.
- ▼ A cool comfortable summer with close proximity to urban areas and the sea.
- ▼ Rich local Culture and lots of points of interest.
- ▼ Ten Unique medieval / Byzantine churches part of the UNESCO World Heritage.
- ▼ Stunning beauty with a variety of surroundings.



Thank you for your patience & understanding

I am at your disposal for any questions you may have

Actually if you have any questions keep them to yourselves unless you want to expose our collective ignorance !!!



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